



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
Deborah R. Gilg

1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

December 4, 2009

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the Lincoln Police Department, and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

On December 4, 2009, a Lincoln man was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months (262 months) in prison for his involvement in a conspiracy to sell crack cocaine and powder cocaine in the Lincoln area between October of 2006 and August of 2007. Thomas Ross was held responsible for the distribution of over five ounces of crack cocaine and at least 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces of powder cocaine. Ross's sentence was enhanced due to prior felony convictions for attempted possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and attempted burglary, both from Douglas County, Nebraska.

Name of Defendant: Thomas Dewayne Ross

AKA: Ross

Age: 35

City of residence: Lincoln

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, and a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The possible penalty is not less than 10 years nor more than life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. Following any prison term, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than five years. There is also a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Lincoln

Location of Arrest: Lincoln

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Ross was found responsible for between 150 grams (approximately 5 ¼ ounces) and 500 grams (18 ounces) of crack cocaine and at least 50 grams (approximately 1 ¾ ounces) and 100 grams (approximately 3 ½ ounces) of powder cocaine.

Others Charged in Same Scheme: none

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: Between on or about October 1, 2006, and on or about August 31, 2007

Federal Arrest Date: February 3, 2009

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: January 22, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: February 3, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Ross pled guilty on September 15, 2009.

Sentencing Date: December 4, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: none

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable David L. Piester

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: held without bond

In Continuous Custody Since: February 3, 2009

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Richard G. Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: SEF